

Introduced by Senator Bowen

February 24, 2006

An act to amend Section 15004 of the Elections Code, relating to vote counts.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1747, as introduced, Bowen. Elections: counting votes.

Existing law requires the Secretary of State to, among other things, establish a statewide system to facilitate the removal of duplicate or prior voter registrations, to approve voting systems, to facilitate the reporting of election results and voter and candidate information, and to administer and enhance election administration.

Existing law also provides that the county central committee of each qualified political party may employ and may have present at the central counting place or places, not more than 2 qualified data processing specialists or engineers to check and review, among other things, the preparation and operation of the tabulating devices, and be in attendance at any or all phases of an election.

This bill would delete the county central committee of each qualified political party from these provisions and instead authorize any bona fide association of citizens or a media organization to employ or have the 2 qualified data processing specialists or engineers present as specified above. The bill would also authorize the county elections official to limit the total number of specialists or engineers to no more than 10, as specified, and would require the Secretary of State to adopt regulations to define "qualified data processing specialist or engineer."

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 15004 of the Elections Code is
2 amended to read:
3 15004. ~~The county central committee of each qualified~~
4 ~~political party~~ *(a) Any bona fide association of citizens or a*
5 *media organization* may employ, and may have present at the
6 central counting place or places, not more than two qualified data
7 processing specialists or engineers to check and review the
8 preparation and operation of the tabulating devices, their
9 programming and testing, and have the specialists or engineers in
10 attendance at any or all phases of the election.
11 *(b) The county elections official may limit the total number of*
12 *specialists or engineers in attendance to no more than 10 by a*
13 *manner in which each interested bona fide association of citizens*
14 *or media organization has an equal opportunity to participate.*
15 *The Secretary of State shall adopt regulations that define*
16 *“qualified data processing specialist or engineer” for purposes*
17 *of this section.*